

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. In the Notice of Panel Decision from Pre-Appeal Brief Review dated 1/29/2007, Claims 2-6, 8, 10-19, and 22 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Hewitt (U.S. Patent No. 5,796,851) in view of Kobayashi (U.S. Patent No. 5,764,005) and in further view of Yahagi (U.S. Patent No. 6,783,073). Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowability of claims 7, 20 & 21.

Claims 2-6, 8-15, 17-20, and 22 are currently pending in this application. These rejections have been traversed and, as such, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the allowability of claims 2-6, 8-20, and 22.

2. Claims 2-6, 8, 10-15, 17-19, and 22 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Hewitt (U.S. Patent No. 5,796,851) in view of Kobayashi (U.S. Patent No. 5,764,005) and in further view of Yahagi (U.S. Patent No. 6,783,073).

Claim 6 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 7. Claim 6 and claims 8-10 that depend therefrom are believed to be in a condition for allowance.

Claim 18 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 21. Claim 18 and claims 19-20 that depend therefrom are believed to be in a condition for allowance.

Claims 11 and 22 have been similarly amended. Claims 11 and 22, and claims 2-5 and 12-15 and 17 that depend therefrom are believed to be in a condition for allowance.

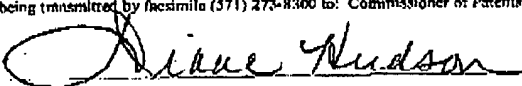
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For the foregoing reasons, the applicant believes that claims 2-6, 8-15, and 17-20 and 22 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that they be passed to allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone or facsimile if the Examiner believes that such a communication would advance the prosecution of the present invention.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile (371) 273-8300 to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Alexandria, Virginia 22313, on the date below:	
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